

REMARKS

In regard to section 1 of the office action, claims 3 and 5 have been amended above to clarify applicant's claimed invention. In regard to claim 20, the strain relief 9 can latch under the latching shoulder 15.

Claims 1-6 and 14-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mosquera (US 4,975,076) in view of Geltsch et al. (US 6,773,288) and Puerner (US 5,387,123). The examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection.

It is believed that Geltsch et al. (US 6,773,288) is not a proper reference under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The present application has an international filing date of October 23, 2003 (and priority back to even further). Geltsch et al. did not issue until August 10, 2004. Geltsch et al. and the present application were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, commonly owned. The examiner is directed to MPEP §706.02(1)(2). In accordance with MPEP §706.02(1)(2)(II), it is understood that this statement alone is sufficient evidence to disqualify Geltsch et al. from being used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) against the claims of the present application. Thus, the examiner is requested to withdraw the rejections based upon Geltsch et al.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain,

Appl. No.: 10/533,344
Reply to Office Action of: 03/09/2007

the examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date shown below in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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